



From the NIFA Communications Office

NIFA in the News – Week of January 30, 2012

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In the News

USDA offers to back ZeaChem's first commercial biorefinery (Ethanol Producer Magazine 1/26). On Jan. 26, the USDA announced it has approved a \$232.5 million conditional commitment to support the construction of ZeaChem Boardman Biorefinery LLC, a 25 MMgy integrated biorefinery to be built in Boardman, Ore., along the Columbia River. The company was also part of a coalition which received a \$40 million USDA grant through its Agriculture and Food Research Initiative last September to develop technologies that could produce biogasoline and jet fuel from hybrid poplar. [Link](#)

K-State teams with UNL, other institutions in effort to cut e. Coli risk (High Plains Journal 1/27). Seventeen Kansas State University scientists will join researchers from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and other universities and government agencies in a coordinated, multi-pronged approach to improve the safety of beef. The grant was awarded to UNL by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Local 4-H centennial events planned (The Herald-Journal 1/30). Utah State University Extension has announced it plans to celebrate the centennial of the Utah 4-H program with a variety of activities in Cache Valley throughout the year for both past and present members and the general public. The centennial celebration for Utah 4-H is not the same as the national 4-H organization, which celebrated its centennial in 2002. 4-H is administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the United States Department of Agriculture. [Link](#)

Local Food Project Targets Food Marketing for Rural Farmers (Kansas City Infozine 1/30). Through the Local Food Linkages Project, researchers at MU and the University of Nebraska are collaborating to find ways for local farmers build markets for their products in rural America. A \$400,000 grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative funds this research. [Link](#)

Bee Team reducing colony deaths in California (Western Farm Press 1/30). In response to the serious health problems facing honey bees, a Tech-Transfer Team was initiated to work with beekeepers in Northern California. Three trained crop protection agents (the Bee Team) are now established in Butte County working as an extension program of the University of California Cooperative Extension. The Team is part of a nation-wide effort to help the honey bee: the Bee Informed Partnership (beeinformed.org). This project is a newly funded nationwide initiative supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Grants available for Food and Wildlife Habitat Gardens (Hillsdale Daily News 1/31). The Hillsdale Conservation District is partnering with the Calhoun Conservation District to offer grants to groups and organizations with funding from the People's Community Gardens of Southwest Michigan. In a national competition, the Calhoun Conservation District was one of 10 organizations to win People's Garden grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. [Link](#)

Texas Tech grant looks for ways to avoid salmonella (Lubbock Online-TX 1/31). USDA grant to aid salmonella study. A team of Texas Tech researchers were awarded \$540,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and an additional \$150,000 matching funds from the Beef Checkoff program to research and provide solutions for salmonella in cattle. The researchers from Tech's International Center for Food Industry Excellence, in collaboration with scientists from USDA's Agricultural Research Services, will explore important factors that contribute to salmonella being carried by cattle. With this knowledge, the team will engage the beef industry to develop and implement practical solutions to reduce the likelihood that salmonella finds its way into the beef. [Link](#)

\$5 Million Focused On Feed Efficiency (National Hog Farmer 2/1). An international team of swine nutrition specialists and related scientists gathered in Omaha, NE, on Nov. 8-9 to take a hard look at the many challenges and opportunities associated with the efficient conversion of feed into lean pork. The impetus for the conference is a \$5 million grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, devoted exclusively to advancing the science and practical knowledge of feed efficiency in swine. [Link](#)

